

MAN WHO SAYS "I AM THE MOST THANKFUL MAN"

By E. C. Rodgers.

Alton, Ill., Nov. 30.—"I'm as thankful this Thanksgiving as any man on God's green earth!"

He was not a millionaire, nor yet a robust full-bodied man; neither was he one who had just escaped from some terrible ordeal who spoke these words to me to-day.

This man with heartfelt prayer of thanks on his lips is Charles Sunderland, Alton's wonderful teamster, who has no fingers or hands and only one poor stump of an arm.

Sutherland is the leading citizen of Alton. Oh, yes, they have mayors and rich men and politicians, but Alton is proudest of its stump-armed teamster, who is all cheer and love and praise because he has been able to make life a success in spite of the dreadful disaster that threatened it.

As a boy of 9, with a dying soldier father, he went to work feeding cane at a molasses mill. One day the whirring knives took one arm off at the shoulder and the other at the elbow.

"The first thing my boy said when he came to," said Mrs. Mary Eller, his mother, "was 'Who will chop wood for ma now?'"

But when Charley got well he learned to chop wood with that stump. He learned to do other things and when he was 20 people came miles to see him do the work of a two-handed man.

"He can load sand as quickly as we can, and he can beat us all

driving," a teamster exclaimed when I wandered down to the Mississippi river to watch Sunderland load his sand wagon.

When he grew up, Sunderland saved enough money hauling wood to buy a team. Now he has two teams and does the biggest teaming business in Alton.



How the Thankful Man Works.

It is wonderful, the way he drives, with the lines over his shoulder, wrapped around his half arm. He can navigate all the turns and twists, up hill and down as well as any teamster with the proper equipment of arms and hands.

The day I was with him he was driving a blind team, neither of the horse-